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The BG News January 14, 2010

Bowling Green State University

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PEACE, LOVE, & TIE DYE

Go to www.bgnews.com for a video about Tie Dye Tom and his booth outside the Education Building.

THE BG NEWS

ESTABLISHED 1920

A daily independent student press serving the campus and surrounding community

Thursday

January 14, 2010
Volume 104, Issue 80
www.bgnews.com

CAMPUS

Jazz musician drops by

See photos of visiting pianist Phil DeGreg in the jazz studies department at the University | **Page 8**

Ten easy ways to go green in 2010

Columnist Ella Fowler offers 10 tips on how to go green in the new year just by changing a few daily habits | **Page 4**

Keep America beautiful month

Josh Whetherholt brings awareness to the fact that many months have too many causes to be aware of, January alone has 12 | **Page 4**

Haiti works to recover

Haiti works to recover after facing a 7.0 level earthquake, potential 500,000 body count and collapsed buildings | **Page 6**

Bull fight, Round Two

After the women hosted Buffalo yesterday, the Falcon men host the Bulls this evening in a match-up of MAC Contenders from last season | **Page 9**

Falcons tear into Buffalo

Women's basketball took on the Buffalo Bulls and won 78-60 with a strong second half outcome | **Page 9**

WORLD

SPORTS

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

If you could put anything in your burrito what would it be?



MIKE NOWAK
Freshman, Comp. Sci.
"An entire steak."
| **Page 4**

Cheerleading squad travels to nationals

By **Ryan Bort**
Reporter

"In addition to school, cheerleading really is a part-time job."

Andy Gibson | Senior

In just her second year as the head coach of the University's cheerleading team, Anne Marie King has already led the team to the top of the national rankings.

This weekend the squad will compete in the Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) National Championships in Orlando, Florida.

King is an alumna of the University's cheerleading program and earned a degree in psychology before going on to get two master's degrees. In 2008 she assumed the head coach position and under her leadership the team has climbed the national ranks.

The team has been extremely dedicated under her leadership,

contributing 15-20 hours a week. The squad practices four times a week, has a lifting schedule, attends study tables and cheers at games and events.

"In addition to school, cheerleading really is a part-time job," Senior Andy Gibson said.

This year the team's dedication has paid off in the form of a number six ranking in the small coed division, heading into Orlando. The team will take this ranking into the Wide World

of Sports Complex this weekend against Oklahoma, Syracuse, Villanova and 12 others. If the team makes the finals of the national championship, which is the top nine teams, they will be televised on ESPN.

One of the best teams the squad will see is Morehead State University.

Assistant Coach David Clemons came to the University from Morehead State, where he won two national championships. His experience with that team has helped him and King push this year's squad to the level they are at now.

"He's done a lot to help us, especially for the guys," Gibson said. "He can show us what to do as opposed to just tell us."

However, to make it to Orlando, the team has had to pay their



ALAINA BUZAS | THE BG NEWS

COACH: Cheerleading coach Anne Marie King discusses an upcoming practice location with some members of the coed squad. King will be traveling to Orlando soon for a national cheerleading competition.

own way through fundraising efforts throughout the year. Each member had to raise \$1,100 by putting on clinics, asking for personal donations, judging high school competitions and

volunteering at Cedar Point. The \$1,100 covers their flight, hotel room, a park pass for their

See **CHEER** | **Page 2**

WRAPPED IN A FLASH



RYAN PIROG | THE BG NEWS

QUICK EATS: A Speedy Burrito employee wraps up a burrito for a hungry patron.



RYAN PIROG | THE BG NEWS

OWNERS: Ricardo Urista and his mother at Speedy Burrito.



RYAN PIROG | THE BG NEWS

ASSEMBLE: At the Speedy Burrito there is a plethora of choices.

By **Anthony Phillips**
Reporter

New local business, Speedy Burrito, offers burritos and provides students with delivery service for a filling meal on the go

Uniqueness, good customer service and having the basic necessities are some of the many important aspects to making small businesses successful—and a burrito.

That's why Ricardo Urista is trying to implement these aspects in his new business, Speedy-Burritos.

Urista said he thinks he has found his niche, burritos made-to-order and available for delivery.

He said this is not a new idea, bigger cities deliver a lot of different food, but he thinks they are different.

"We understand we're rather unique as a burrito shop," Urista said.

For now Urista said he will advertise and try to promote convenience to what he said is a good town for Speedy-Burritos.

"Bowling Green is a good test for the concept because of the demographics," said Urista. "We can provide convenience to the optimal student based demographic."

Maria's Tacos, Urista's first delivery concept, works with an equal variety of different tacos and burritos and Speedy-Burritos is a modified version of his original restaurant.

Urista said he decided to minimize the amount of tacos and

See **BURRITO** | **Page 2**

Associate Residence Life, Greek Affairs director chosen

By **Alissa Widman**
Reporter

The University has appointed an interim associate director of Residence Life and Greek Affairs, filled a staff position that has been vacant since last June.

Former Assistant dean of students Dennis Bubrig began holding this new position Tuesday and will continue to until June 30, said Director of Residence Life Michael Griffel.

"Dennis was approached after Gordy Heminger left the position in June to become the president and chief executive officer of his international fraternity near Indianapolis," Griffel said. "We're glad to have Dennis on our staff, and also to now have a person in that role."

Griffel said Bubrig was approached because of his strong experience in Student and Greek affairs.

The associate director of residence life and Greek affairs oversees all aspects of the Greek community, as well as Residence Life's leadership programs.

"He has some great ideas. He'll be involved and working directly with many of our students and

"We're glad to have Dennis on our staff, and also to now have a person in that role."

Michael Griffel | Residence Life

leaders," he said. "Many of our Greek leaders in particular will have direct interaction, and the whole Greek system will benefit from his expertise. Students will definitely be touched by the great work he will be doing."

Bubrig said he sees his new role in the Greek community as both a change and a promotion. He said he is looking forward to being able to expand and work with students and be "a fresh set of eyes" for another side of the University.

"Yes, [the job] is for a fixed time frame, but it's still increased responsibility and accountability for me to the institution," Bubrig said. "I would hope that when students look back at the end of spring, whatever I end

See **RESIDENCE** | **Page 2**

Shuttle fee issue still unresolved in USG

By **Matt Liasse**
Reporter

"USG will be moving forward for an undergrad fee regardless..."

Sundeep Mutgi | USG President

USG has a list of goals set for the upcoming semester, but first they must re-examine an issue from the past—the shuttle fee.

Graduate Student Senate rejected the \$20 per semester fee that USG supported in November, so the University's Board of Trustees could not move forward with any plans set forth for the shuttle services.

USG President Sundeep Mutgi said he will propose a resolution that will only cover undergraduates and also wants to form a committee between USG and GSS members.

"USG will be moving forward for an undergrad fee regardless of whether GSS decides to move with or without us," Mutgi said. "[If GSS does not get on board with the resolution] the details for how to handle that disconnect will be broken down throughout the next semester."

The debate started in October when Senator Joe Edens called for undergrads to vote on the possible fee, which was eventually approved by a majority of students during a poll on the

University's Web site.

Eden's resolution included the University's proposal to add a downtown route to the shuttle service and to pay for parking lot maintenance.

On Nov. 23, Student Welfare Committee Chair Chris Schiazza presented a new resolution sharing USG's support for the added fees, which led to concern about knowing what the fee would cover.

A select few members addressed the point that specific details were absent in the resolution, but the members went on with the vote regardless, approving it with a 20-13 vote.

"We well represent the student body," Mutgi said that night, saying that the vote was 60 percent

See **SHUTTLE** | **Page 2**

BLOTTER

TUESDAY JAN. 12

4:33 P.M.

Complainant reported an unknown subject was soliciting without a permit within the 1400th block of Scott Hamilton Ave.

10:33 P.M.

Ryan Minnick, 25, of Bowling Green, was cited for disorderly conduct/loud music within the 300th block of N. Church St.

WEDNESDAY
JAN. 13

12:06 A.M.

Heather Gill, 19, of Toledo, was cited for underage under the influence within the 100th block of N. Main St.

1:43 A.M.

Shane Whisler, 21, of Fremont, Ohio, was arrested for open container of alcohol within the 100th block of N. Prospect St.

2:54 A.M.

Complainant reported a known subject threatened him through his Facebook account.

2:54 A.M.

Andre Allen, 20, of Detroit, was arrested for assault and possession of marijuana. Mark Gritton, 26, of Defiance, Ohio, was arrested for assault and Damien Smith, 21, also of Defiance, Ohio, was arrested for possession of marijuana within the 300th block of E. Wooster St.

3:03 A.M.

Resident within the 900th block of Klotz Road was warned for disorderly conduct/loud music.

ONLINE: Go to bgviews.com for the complete blotter list.

CORRECTION
POLICY

We want to correct all factual errors. If you think an error has been made, call The BG News at 419-372-6966.

RESIDENCE

From Page 1

up bringing to the table was a positive influence on all of us to move the Greek community forward."

Bubrig will return to his position of assistant dean of students when a permanent replacement is selected, Griffel said.

"I'm very appreciative of the office of the dean of students and the vice president of student affairs for letting Dennis hold this position on an interim basis. Their help and support allowed this to happen," Griffel said. "We're anticipating doing the most thorough review of applications from the middle of February to the middle of March, and hope to have a

BURRITO

From Page 1

focus on expanding the burrito choices.

"Tacos are not delivery friendly believe it or not," Urista said. "Burritos are more delivery friendly."

Cook Bradley Rader, a University senior, said he believes the company will thrive.

"Not only can you grab a bite to eat on your way home from the bars or wherever you are that night before you head home, but you can get it delivered to you," Rader said.

The restaurant has grown steadily with business from its first day of two customers to multiple deliveries to different businesses.

"A lot of the businesses around main have been coming, placing deliveries for their office, deciding to give [Speedy-Burritos] a try," Rader said.

Other than burritos, Speedy-Burritos will sell tamales, quesadillas and chimichangas amongst other items.

Urista said the menu is tentative until he is finished fine tuning the restaurant.

Urista is finished setting up most of the restaurant, he said, but still needs to put out a sign.

"My sister put out one with marker," Urista said.

Because he is still trying smooth the details Urista said he will hold off on an official grand opening celebration until everything is finished.

"It will probably be in about two weeks and we will have some specials going on for that as well," Urista said. "Right now we have a deal on a smaller 99 cent burrito."

Junior Kelly Gordon, a deliverer, said she believes the restaurant will do well because it is targeting the right audience.

"I think it will fit well in the BG party scene," Gordon said. The restaurant is open late and is located on Wooster, where Munchies used to be.

Gordon said she knows people get sick of long lines at Taco Bell, and if they want something made with fresh ingredients they can come and enjoy.

Urista said he hopes people will come in, but also hopes they use the delivery system. He believes everyone will start to deliver because the little guy is starting it.

"Taco Bell and Chipotle are going to have to deliver to compete," Urista said.

But for now, Urista's burrito delivery idea is his niche.

CHEER

From Page 1

day off and a stipend for meals.

To get to this point and be competitive, the team has needed to stay healthy in a sport, that as studies show, is among the leaders in injuries. All season King has been preaching safety and it has rubbed off on the team.

"Safety is biggest and most important in our minds," Gibson said. "If the NCAA regulations say that we can't do a certain stunt on a certain floor, then we don't do it."

Senior Nikki Harris points out that cheerleading is becoming more athletic than it used to be, but cheerleaders are getting smarter about injury prevention.

"We use mats and spotters in practice to avoid all of the injuries we can," Harris said. "There are going to be accidents in cheerleading but those are coming from the uneducated cheerleaders who are trying to push the limits."

Part of injury prevention is also having the right members on the squad, which is a difficult task for King since the University is unable to offer scholarships to recruit.

"Without scholarships to offer, we need to find other ways to recruit students, both out of high school and on campus," King said.

The team holds showcases, takes advantage of campus fest and actively seeks out University students who have the physique and dedication necessary to become a cheerleader. King has been successful in this aspect as well as others and has pushed her team to become competitive at a national level.

After watching her team all year, King is optimistic about their performance this weekend. When asked about her team's chances to make the finals, she confidently said "We should."

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Tom Hanks

Born in California, Tom Hanks grew up in what he calls a 'fractured' family. His parents were pioneers in the development of marriage dissolution law in that state, and Tom moved around a lot, living with a succession of step-families. No problems, no abuse, no alcoholism, just a confused childhood. He had no acting experience in college, and in fact credits the fact that he couldn't get cast in a college play with actually starting his career - he went downtown, auditioned for a community theater play, was invited by the director of that play to go to Cleveland, and there his acting career started.

SHUTTLE

From Page 1

in favor, which matched the results of the online poll.

"At that point, I thought we were smooth sailing with this resolution, until I found out that GSS voted on this issue too," Schiazza said.

On Dec. 3, Mutgi sent out an e-mail to all members of USG, updating them on the progress with the shuttle fee after he met with the Board of Trustees.

"Unfortunately, we have hit a bit of a snag," Mutgi wrote in the e-mail. "... because GSS did not approve of the fee, the Board is not prepared to blanket approve the fee."

He also added that members of the Board would be "looking at numbers of graduate students that use the shuttle in order to determine what to do next with the grad students and the fee."

"Right now they are still tabling the resolution because they do not want to support one of the student bodies over the other one," Schiazza said.

"We haven't technically lost time and use of the new fee ... we will still plan out the new route and have it go into effect

for the 2010-2011 year, we will just have to wait a bit longer to make it official through the Board," Mutgi went on to add in the e-mail.

Schiazza said USG has not been working with this resolution over winter break, but as the semester progresses, there will be an ad hoc committee created that will consist of both USG and GSS members that will work towards a compromise for the fee.

"It might seem that the GSS and the USG are in opposition to each other, but nothing could be further from the truth," GSS Representative at Large Steve Dinda said. "The efforts of the USG to expand the shuttle service to include a late night downtown route are commendable because of the benefit it would provide to the entire student body."

"While the GSS strongly supports the shuttle service, we did not support the expansion and fee as it was proposed to the student body because the details of the expansion were vague," Dinda said.

"We believe that it is in the best interest of all students that before a fee is levied against the student body that the details of any changes or expansions to services that

the shuttle provides should be made clear, and that such a fee should take into account individual student use," Dinda said, who added GSS is looking forward to working together with USG on a number of different issues to ensure benefits for the whole student body.

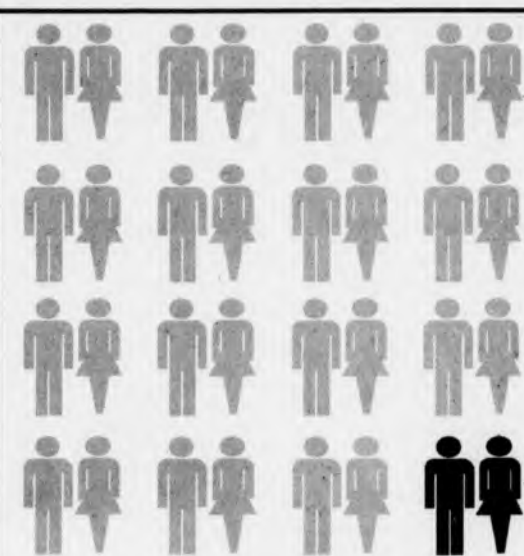
Edens, who has been leery on the fees from the beginning, said he was "pleased to see the Board of Trustees decide to postpone their consideration of this fee."

"The split between [USG and GSS] needs to be explored and discussed," Edens said. "The fact that either organization has not been presented a precise proposal or projection as to what the fee would go towards is concerning."

Edens also questioned the student body's dedication to the issue.

"Students have been, in my opinion, very apathetic about this fee," Edens said. "I have received the notion from many students that \$20 a semester is not big enough to get in a twist about."

"My hopes are that this finally gets taken care of one way or the other and that the student governments can move on to other issues," Schiazza said.



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DID YOU KNOW?

In the early days of the telephone, operators would pick up a call and use the phrase, "Well, are you there?" It wasn't until 1895 that someone suggested answering the phone with the phrase "number please?"



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FRUGAL FALCON\$

FACT: 10 Financial Resolutions for the New Year
3. Open an IRA (Individual Retirement Account) (May open when you begin earning money)
Send your 2010 financial resolution to frugalfalcons@bgsu.edu by Jan. 20* to be considered for publication in the BGNews
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December budget deficit sets record

Deficit between October and December 16.8 percent higher than last year

By Martin Crutsinger
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal budget deficit hit an all-time high for the month of December, and the red ink for the first three months of the current budget year is rising at a more rapid pace than last year's record clip.

The massive tide of red ink, reflecting the continued fallout from a deep recession and a severe financial crisis, highlights the challenge facing President Barack Obama as he pledges to get control of runaway deficits.

The Treasury Department said Wednesday that the deficit last month totaled \$91.85 billion, the largest December deficit on record and a bigger imbalance than the \$92 billion that economists had expected.

For the first three months of the current budget year, which began on Oct. 1, the deficit totals \$388.51 billion, 16.8 percent higher than the \$332.49 billion imbalance

recorded during the same period a year ago.

Last year's deficit surged to \$1.42 trillion, more than three times the record of the previous year, an imbalance of \$454.8 billion set in 2008.

The Obama administration is projecting that this year's deficit will climb even higher to \$1.5 trillion, which would be 5.6 percent higher than the 2009 deficit. That figure will be revised when the president sends his new budget to Congress in early February.

The red ink is being caused by the impact a severe recession has had on government revenues and the billions of dollars being spent to stimulate the economy and stabilize the financial system.

So far, the government has been able to finance the soaring imbalances with low interest rates as the Federal Reserve has worked to keep rates low in an effort to jump-start economic growth.

However, economists warn that the government's financing

costs will begin rising sharply once the recovery begins and the Fed starts raising rates to make sure inflation does not get out of control.

Foreign governments, including China, the largest holder of U.S. Treasury securities, have also expressed concerns about the outlook for deficit reduction in coming years.

The administration contends that the government has no choice but to spend these vast sums to keep the country from falling into an even deeper downturn. The administration is pledging to move forcefully to get the deficits under control once the economy has begun growing again and the unemployment rate is on a sustained downward path.

Obama's deficit-cutting plans are expected to be featured prominently in the budget the president will submit to Congress in early February for the 2011 budget year that will begin next Oct. 1.

Google threat is show of defiance in China

By Joe McDonald
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Google's threat to pull out of China over censorship is a rare display of defiance in a system where foreign companies have long accepted intrusive controls to gain access to a huge and growing market.

Dismayed by the prospect of a China without Google, visitors left flowers at its Beijing headquarters yesterday as Web sites buzzed with words of support and appeals to stay.

"I felt it's a pity and hope it will not withdraw from the Chinese market," said a man who left flowers at the building in the high-tech Haidian district and would give only his surname, Chang. "Google played a key role in the growth of our generation. The control (of the Internet) is excessive."

In industries from automaking to fast food, companies have been forced to allow communist authorities to influence — and sometimes dictate — their choice of local partners, where to operate

"The Internet is like media and the media are under tight government control, so that poses additional challenges for foreign Internet companies..."

Edward Yu | President, Analysys International

and what products to sell.

Web companies have endured criticism for cooperating with a communist system that tightly controls information. Google Inc., Yahoo Inc., Microsoft Corp. and others have acceded to pressure to block access to politically sensitive material.

"The Internet is like media, and the media are under tight government control, so that poses additional challenges for foreign Internet companies compared with, say, manufacturers of TV sets, mobile phones or autos," said Edward Yu, president of Analysys International, an Internet research firm in Beijing.

Google's decision even to talk publicly was rare in a system where

Chinese officials react angrily to criticism. Officials have wide regulatory discretion and companies avoid saying anything that might prompt retaliation.

China's foreign ministry and Ministry of Industry and Information Technology did not respond to requests for comment but the state Xinhua News Agency cited an unidentified official as saying the government was seeking more information from Google. Phone calls to Google spokespeople in Beijing and Hong Kong were not answered.

Comments left on Chinese Internet bulletin boards praised Google's stance and appealed to the Mountainview, California-based search giant not to leave.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BG NEWS WIRE SERVICES

Salvation Army in SC gets help after check fraud

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A Salvation Army chapter in South Carolina said it is receiving donations from as far away as California after it was victimized by a hoax involving a fake check.

Capt. Anthony Juliana said Wednesday the agency had received over \$75,000 from more than 250 donors nationwide.

The agency received a check for \$25,000 in December purporting to be a donation from a local company. The agency deposited the check and used some of it to help about 100 families.

The bank called two days before Christmas, saying the check had bounced and the agency was left with less money than expected to help the needy.

Fed: Recovery spreads but doesn't spur hiring

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economic recovery is spreading to more parts of the country but has yet to spur companies to ramp up hiring.

A new Federal Reserve survey, released yesterday, underscores the duality of the economic turnaround: even as the economy grows and the recovery extends its reach geographically, more than 15 million people remain unemployed.

The Fed observed that although "economic activity remains at a low level, conditions have improved modestly further." However, the Fed also noted that "labor market conditions remained soft" in most of the Fed's 12 regions as the new year started.

Southwestern to get electricity from wind power

GEORGETOWN, Texas (AP) — Wind power from hundreds of miles away will help keep the lights on at Southwestern University in Georgetown.

The city on Tuesday signed an agreement with AEP Energy Partners to use wind-generated electricity at the school of about 1,500, located 20 miles north of Austin.

The city-owned utility will still be aligned with the state's power grid, but Southwestern says it is buying enough wind-generated power, from two AEP farms in west Texas, to cover its electric use.

Southwestern will pay Georgetown a fixed rate. Costs were not disclosed for the agreement taking effect with the February billing cycle.

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HOLE IN THE WALL FOR HOLE IN THE WALL



Sponsored by: PHI KAPPA TAU

Saturday, January 16, 2010

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

On the main floor of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House

For a small monetary donation,

come take a swing at a wall inside Phi Tau as we say goodbye to the house one last time!

All proceeds will benefit the Hole in the Wall Camps that provide a safe summer camp experience for children with serious illnesses and life threatening conditions.

Φ K T

For more information on how to help this worthy cause please go to: <http://www.holeinthewallcamps.org>

FORUM

"Bowling Green is a good test for the concept because of the demographics."
— Ricardo Urista, Speedy-Burritos owner on opening his restaurant in Bowling Green [see story, pg. 1].

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PEOPLE ON THE STREET

If you could put anything on your burrito, what would it be?



"Wasabi."

ASAKO KAWATSURA,
Grad Student,
Geology



"Lobster."

JOHN EMBRY,
Freshman,
Art Education



"Swedish Fish."

TARYKA DANIELS,
Sophomore,
Integrated Languages



"Pickled Plum."

RIE OKADA,
Junior,
International Relations

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There are ways to uphold New Year's Resolutions and keep green



ELLA FOWLER
CITY EDITOR

"As students, we should be invested in Bowling Green. Get rid of your pesky car and walk downtown. You will be amazed what you see when you walk and don't drive."

Many say college is the time of our lives. I agree, but it is also a time to truly find out who we are, what we care about and, in some cases, where we fit in.

College is also the time for activism, whether it is on a small or global scale. It's a time to make a difference and, as always, I am here to encourage you to make an environmentally friendly difference.

Now, being environmentally friendly doesn't necessarily mean wearing only organic clothes and eating only organic meals. It can be simple changes, which help reduce our carbon footprint. With the start of the New Year, I thought I would present 10 resolutions on how to go green.

Walk. The University is not extremely big and is walker-friendly. If you drive to class and live on campus, shame. Most students can get where they need to go easily, and most classes are 10 to 15 minutes from dorm rooms.

As students, we should be invested in Bowling Green. Get rid of your pesky car and walk downtown. You will be amazed what you see when you walk and don't drive. As someone who lives further than a 10 minute walk from campus, I know it means

waking up earlier to get to class on time, but trust me, it feels good to walk. Plus, you can save some money on on-campus parking passes. But if driving someplace is absolutely necessary, car pool or take public or campus transportation.

Eat Greener. It is simple to eat greener without stressing your pocketbook. If you live on campus, it is harder to eat a diet based on whole grains, fruits, vegetables and lean proteins, but no harm in trying, right? Plus, cut meat from your diet once or twice a week and you will be surprised by the results on your body and budget. Or if you feel the need to make a statement, write Dining Services and demand more organic, meat-free entrees. It may take awhile, but it is a step in the right direction.

Shop Local. Shop Greener. Many local businesses, like Squeaker's and Happy Badger, offer students and residents greener options. These shops have great options for students, like organic laundry detergent, clothing and food, with a lower environmental impact than items from well-known chains like Wal-Mart and Meijer.

Also, you are the consumer: Read about the

products you buy. If you can't buy organic food, read up on some of the non-organic companies you buy from — you may be surprised by some of their practices.

Look at everyday products you use in your home and find ways to make them greener. All it takes is initiative and a little patience. Plus, help us all out and BYOB (bring your own bags): No one wants to see more plastic in the Pacific Ocean.

Choose green cleaning products. Some cost more, but if you shop right you can find good cleaning products at a cheap price. So look for environmentally friendly dish soap or laundry detergent, or companies who make green cleaning products like Green Works, Seventh Generation or ECOS.

Unplug your electronics and turn off lights. When you leave your computer plugged in all night, it is pulling electricity off the grid. When your television is plugged in and you are not using it, it is also pulling electricity off the grid. Your microwave, your coffee

See **FOWLER** | Page 5



ANDY BALTES | THE BG NEWS

Silly awareness months take away from serious monthly causes



JOSH WHETHERHOLT
ASSISTANT FORUM
EDITOR

Let me start off by saying happy Family Fit Lifestyle Month. Or Glaucoma Awareness Month. Or if you really prefer, have a nice Volunteer Blood Donor Month. As anyone can see, there are many things to be aware of during the year.

But why do so many of these causes get an entire month geared towards being aware of the issue? January alone has 12 different issues to be aware of. That's not even close to the month garnering the most awareness. May rings in with the most, boasting 26 different causes ranging from Better Sleep Month and Correct Posture Month to Mental Health Month and Sight Saving Month. In total there are 125 different causes throughout the year, and unfortunately most of them seem just plain silly.

Just as a test, see if you can pick out which one of these four monthly awareness months is actually made up: Get Caught Reading Month, Pleasure Your Mate Month, Starving Artist Awareness Month or Shameless Promotion Month. Give up? While they are all equally strange, it is actually the Starving Artist Awareness Month that is fake, although I'm sure it is in the making as you read this.

My main beef with all of the awareness months is most of the things to be aware of are subjects that people should constantly be aware of. Working on your people skills should not be reserved for the month of June. Sorry if this is the first time some people are hearing this, but September is not the only time you can sign up for a library card or be a sea cadet, much as November is not the only time people should prevent others from runaway.

Not to be offensive or insensitive to the awareness of all the different kinds of cancer and the necessary research, but why

can there not just be a Cancer Awareness Month, or maybe have several times throughout the year to bring attention to the issue of cancer and cancer research? Instead there is an awareness month for nearly every type of cancer from breast to prostate and everywhere in between. If all the people supporting all of the different cancer awareness months banded together, they could probably get more accomplished than in the splintered fashion at which they go about things now. Quite simply, there is strength in numbers.

The strangest part is that on the surface, most other people can see the absurdity in having these seemingly random and unnecessary awareness months, but since they are national awareness months, I have to believe that a large number of people invest a decent amount of time, energy and probably monetary sponsorship towards these causes.

See **JOSH** | Page 5

START CONTRIBUTING.

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are generally to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. Two submissions per month maximum.

POLICIES: Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

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Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of **The BG News**.

Current American ideals not on track with those of previous times



PATRICK SAUNDERS
FACULTY COLUMNIST

As someone who came of age in the middle of the 60's, the music of that time still resonates for me today.

Buffalo Springfield's 1967 hit, "For What it's Worth," is one of those songs, whose lyrics — "There's a man with ... (fill in the blanks) ... over there, telling me I got to beware" — are an accurate description of our society today. A fearful one, that places safety from real or imagined threats above everything else — even freedom, a word the '60s was all about.

Some would describe me as being "stuck in the '60s," but as another writer pointed out recently, at least the '60s was a decade in which change came about that had a profound impact for good and bad on the nation and the world. The decade we just turned the page on, the "00" years of the 21st Century, can be described as a period in which no positive impact happened in the world, but rather quite the opposite.

The "00" years are the period of time in which the darker side of our humanity ran rampant over the globe and this darker side was not only the province of the "bad people."

It is rather like a contagion that infected our nation as well as other "civilized" nations to consider and use methods that

had been in the tool kit of the outlaws of civilization: torture, kidnapping, secret hearings, denial of basic human rights and sanctioning the deaths of innocent people as necessary for the so-called greater good.

"There's battle lines being drawn / nobody's right if everybody's wrong."

Now, in the aftermath of the botched Christmas terror attack on an airliner by an alleged follower of the al-Qaida movement, we have seen the call for the overt profiling of Muslims, simply because they are Muslims, as a security precaution by high-ranking members of our government.

Another symptom of this contagion has been the placement of greed over simple human compassion and profit over human life by those we have entrusted with the privilege of representing our interests. In the debates on critical issues facing us as a nation, greed has been the winner. Fear has been used to confuse those who will be most affected by greed's victory.

They are the Tea Partiers, those crowds of people driven by a fear mantra sung by those who represent greed: Sarah Palin, Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck, to name a few.

"What a field-day for the heat / A thousand people in the street / Singing songs and carrying signs / Mostly

say, 'hooray for our side.'"

Lost in the shuffle are those who ask, "Who will protect us from the interests of greed?"

One of the nation's founders, Benjamin Franklin, once said those who would give up their liberty for the sake of safety deserve neither. Franklin knew living in a free society is always a risk-filled venture. But a free society is more desirable than one where you are safe, but not free.

As a nation that has been evolving since Franklin's time toward what Lincoln described as a "more perfect union," have we reached a point where we should stand back and ask whether we are still on that track? President Obama will soon announce new policies to fill in the "holes" in our security perimeter. The question is, will the former teacher of Constitutional Law continue the marginalization of our basic freedoms started by the Bush administration?

Stephen Stills sang it best: "There's something happening here / What it is ain't exactly clear ... paranoia strikes deep / Into your life it will creep / It starts when you're always afraid / You step out of line, the man come and take you away ..."

Respond to Pat at
thenews@bgnews.com

FOWLER

From Page 4

pot; yep, the list continues. Unplugging appliances is a great way to reduce your CO2 emissions. Plus, what's the point in leaving these appliances plugged in when all they are doing is adding to your utility bill?

Also, nothing bugs me more than a light left on all night or all day. It is as simple as turning off a switch, folks, and it doesn't take too much out of your day. When you are not in a room, turn off the light. Or take it a step further and buy compact fluorescent light bulbs. They cost more, but they last much longer and eventually save you money depending on how often you use the lights.

Limit heat and air conditioning. If you can walk around your apartment in the middle of winter in shorts and a T-shirt, turn down your heat. Use sweat-shirts and blankets instead of cranking it up. And in the summer, turn down the air conditioning; there is no need to be that cold in the middle of summer. You will save money, too.

Limit water usage. Turn off the water. Take shorter showers. This will not only reduce your water bill, but help improve the environment, too. Water is not as replenishable as we think and every time you waste water, you are affecting the environment in some way.

Use a water bottle. Why buy bottled water when you can get free water from the drinking fountain? Bring a water bottle to campus and fill it up instead of buying

bottled water every day. According to the Container Recycling Institute, supplying Americans with plastic water bottles for one year consumes more than 47 million gallons of oil, which is enough to take 100,000 cars off the road.

Plus, according to an article in the San Francisco Chronicle, bottled water costs 240 to 10,000 times more than tap water. If you live off campus and don't like the taste of tap water, buy a Brita filter. It is worth the investment. Not only will your water taste better, but you will save money because you won't have to buy bottled water.

Recycle. If you don't do any of these 10 steps to go green, at least recycle. We can reuse plastic, cardboard and aluminum for other products instead of having them sit in the landfill for

thousands of years.

Reuse. Every semester it seems students throw away old notebooks and binders to get new ones. But is that really necessary? Use those old binders. Just because they are broken in doesn't mean they can't be used for another semester. Or buy used clothing. Goodwill has a plethora of outfits you could find for one-fourth of the money you would spend at a major chain.

Adding these elements to your everyday life can help make our planet greener, while also putting some more green in your pocket-book. Plus, what is the worst that could happen? Nothing, really. So go out and try going green.

Respond to Ella at
thenews@bgnews.com

RIDDLE:

A black dog is sleeping in the middle of a black road that has no streetlights and there is no moon. A car coming down the road with its lights off steers around the dog. How did the driver know the dog was there?

Solution: It was daytime.

JOSH

From Page 4

The worst part is that the silly awareness months can get in the way of the ones that actually are worthy of attention such as Black History Month in February or Gay and Lesbian Pride Month in June. When we have so many things to be

aware of, important subjects fall through the cracks and become just another title on an otherwise worthless-seeming list.

I understand that many of these causes have become a month-long sponsored event because of industry-driven reasons. When travel agencies are trying to get more travelers, why not create a Senior Travel month? And I'm sure that during the Red

Cross Month, the organization sees a boost in donations, volunteers and other such things that help out. However many of the causes will probably not bring in money for themselves or even be heard of, except maybe from this column or if you care to Google "awareness months."

This issue will probably not get resolved anytime soon, if ever. However, if it were to be changed

to where there were only one or two things to be aware of during each month, and monitoring them to make sure that the issues were taken serious and worthy of the received attention, maybe people would take these awareness months a little more seriously.

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Mon - Thur	11am-10pm	7:30am-Midnight	11am-9pm		
Friday	11am-9pm	7:30am-Midnight	11am-9pm		
Saturday	Noon-9pm	11am-Midnight	Noon-9pm		
McDonald	Mondo Subs	Dining Hall	Kreischer	Sundial	Pizza Delivery
Sunday	2pm-11pm	11am-2pm	Sunday	9am-Midnight	
Mon - Thur	11am-11pm	8am-8pm	Mon - Thur	7:30am-Midnight	Thur-Monday
Friday	11am-9pm	8am-4pm	Friday	7:30am-7pm	7:30pm-1am
Saturday	2pm-9pm	11am-2pm	Saturday	9am-7pm	
Founders	Food Court	Outtakes	Offenhauer	Outtakes	
Sunday	----	11am-6pm	Sunday	11am-11pm	
Mon - Thur	8am-7pm	7pm-11pm	Mon - Thur	7:30am-11pm	
Friday	8am-3pm	3pm-7pm	Friday	7:30am-11pm	
Saturday	----	11am-6pm	Saturday	11am-11pm	
Bowen-Thompson Student Union	Falcon's Nest	Greenery	Starbucks	Black Swamp Pub	2.Mato 2.Nite
Sunday	11am-7pm	----	11am-10pm	----	7pm-2am
Mon - Thur	7:30am-8pm	11:30am-2pm	7:30am-10pm	5pm-11pm	7pm-2am
Friday	7:30am-7pm	11:30am-2pm	7:30am-9pm	5pm-11pm	7pm-2am
Saturday	11am-7pm	----	9am-9pm	5pm-11pm	7pm-2am

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WORLD BRIEFS

BIG NEWS
WIRE
SOURCES

Ex-Iran leaders: Professor killing 'terrorism'

TEHRAN, Iran — Two former Iranian presidents yesterday condemned a bomb attack that killed a physics professor who had backed the nation's opposition leader, calling the remote-controlled blast an act of terrorism that could deepen unrest and violence.

The separate statements by Mohammad Khatami and Hashemi Rafsanjani did not directly accuse any group for detonating the bomb-rigged motorcycle Tuesday that claimed the life of the 50-year-old researcher and lecturer, whose work included some aspects of nuclear theory.

— Ali Akbar Dareini and Brian Murphy (AP)

After move closer to Guinea, leader seen as danger

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — The rogue leader of Guinea turned up overnight in Burkina Faso after Moroccan authorities ejected him, putting the injured army captain within driving distance of the nation he terrorized for nearly a year.

The surprise move comes just as the country appeared to be making tentative steps toward a return to civilian rule, and many fear the military leader may try to return or destabilize the nation from exile.

Concerned diplomats huddled to try to make sense of the development, several saying they had had no forewarning of Capt. Moussa "Dadis" Camara's return to the region.

— Brahim Ouedraogo and Rukmini Callimachi (AP)

French President Sarkozy becomes a grandfather

PARIS — French President Nicolas Sarkozy has become a grandfather.

The wife of his 23-year-old son Jean gave birth to a baby boy, and Sarkozy said the parents named him Solal.

The baby was born yesterday in the posh western Paris suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine, according to an official close the presidency and one of Sarkozy's good friends.

Jean is a law student and regional councilor west of Paris. He married former high-school classmate Jessica Sebaoun-Darty, an heiress of a French electronics-vending empire, in 2008.

Jean is the second of 54-year-old Sarkozy's three sons.

— Verena Von Derschau (AP)

Israel apologizes to Turkish ambassador over insult

JERUSALEM — Israel yesterday caved in to demands from Turkey and apologized over an insult to its ambassador in an attempt to defuse the latest crisis between the two nations, a government statement said.

On Monday, Israel's deputy foreign minister, Danny Ayalon, summoned the Turkish ambassador to complain about a TV show. The ambassador was forced to sit on a low sofa without a handshake, while the Ayalon explained to local TV stations that the humiliation was intentional.

Outraged, Turkey threatened to recall the ambassador.

— Mark Lavie (AP)

Guatemala leader probes lawyer's death accusations

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Guatemala's president said the government is investigating people who accused him of killing a prominent lawyer now that a U.N. commission says the attorney may have plotted his own death.

President Alvaro Colom said the probe will not turn into "a witch hunt."

Colom spoke yesterday, a day after U.N. investigators said attorney Rodrigo Rosenberg may have hired a hit man to orchestrate his own killing.

Rosenberg left a posthumous video in which he says, "If you are watching this ... I was assassinated by President Alvaro Colom."

Colom said "there is a team investigating ... the videos, the press reports."

Investigators say Rosenberg may have been motivated by personal problems. His death sparked protests against Colom.

Princess Caroline: husband's slaps 'symbolic'

HILDESHEIM, Germany — Princess Caroline of Monaco told a court yesterday that her husband slapped a hotel owner in Kenya as a symbolic reproach over noise from a disco but did not beat the man.

Prince Ernst August of Hannover — a distant relative of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II — is being retried on charges of causing serious bodily harm in the 2000 incident.

The princess, clad in black, told the court in English that her husband "got angry" with Josef Brunlehner, owner of a hotel on Lamu Island, and slapped him twice with an open hand after becoming irritated at the noise from a disco.

— Juergen Baetz (AP)

UN: Taliban causes Afghan civilian deaths to soar in 2009

Nearly 70 percent of civilian deaths were caused by suicide and other bombings by rebel forces

By Kim Gamel
The Associated Press

KABUL — Taliban suicide bombings and other attacks caused Afghan civilian deaths to soar last year to the highest annual level in the war, the U.N. said yesterday, while deaths attributed to allied forces dropped nearly 30 percent — a key U.S. goal for winning over the Afghan people.

Insurgent attacks were mainly aimed at government or international military forces but often were carried out in crowded areas, the U.N. said in a report.

Afghans seen as supporting the government or the international community also were targeted, including community elders, former military personnel, doctors, teachers and construction workers as well as employees of the U.N. and non-governmental organizations.

"Through these actions, the armed opposition has demonstrated a significant disregard for the suffering inflicted on civilians," the report said.

The U.N. mission, which is in Afghanistan to support and bolster the Afghan government, said 2,412 civilians were killed in 2009 — a 14 percent

increase over the 2,118 who died in 2008. Another 3,566 civilians were wounded.

Nearly 70 percent of the killings, or 1,630, were blamed on suicide attacks and other insurgent bombings as well as assassinations and executions. Some 25 percent, or 596, were attributed to pro-government forces, the report said. The remaining 135 deaths could not be attributed to either side but were civilians caught in the cross-fire or killed by unexploded ordnance.

The number of civilians killed by pro-government forces, including U.S. airstrikes, decreased by 28 percent over the previous year, the report found. Airstrikes still killed 359 civilians, or 60 percent of the deaths attributed to pro-government forces and 15 percent of civilian deaths overall.

"This decrease reflects measures taken by international military forces to conduct operations in a manner that reduces the risk posed to

civilians," it said.

The top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, has ordered troops to use airstrikes judiciously and take other measures to reduce civilian casualties following widespread public outrage over civilian deaths.

"The thinking in the past up until this past year was that we need to go ahead and deal with the insurgency and we will take a calculated risk in terms of collateral damage," said Kamran Bokhari, an analyst with the U.S.-based global intelligence firm Stratfor. "That has somewhat shifted where more caution is being exercised."

Still, the report found that NATO forces conducted a number of ground operations that caused civilian casualties, including search and seizure operations that often involved excessive use of force, destruction of property and cultural insensitivity, particularly toward women.

Thousands feared dead in Haiti quake; many trapped

By Jonathan M. Katz
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haitians piled bodies along the devastated streets of their capital yesterday after a powerful earthquake flattened the president's palace, the cathedral, hospitals, schools, the main prison and whole neighborhoods. Officials feared hundreds of thousands may have perished but there was no firm count.

Death was everywhere in Port-au-Prince. Bodies of tiny children were piled next to schools. Corpses of women lay on the street with stunned expressions frozen on their faces as flies began to gather. Bodies of men were covered with plastic tarps or cotton sheets.

President Rene Preval said he believes thousands were killed in Tuesday afternoon's magnitude-7.0 quake, and the scope of the destruction prompted other officials to give even higher estimates. Leading Sen. Youri Latortue told The Associated Press 500,000 could be dead, although he acknowledged that nobody really knows.

"Parliament has collapsed. The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed," Preval told the Miami Herald. "There are a lot of schools that have a lot of dead people in them."

Even the main prison in the capital fell down, "and there are reports of escaped inmates," U.N. humanitarian spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs said in Geneva.

The head of the U.N. peace-keeping mission was missing and the Roman Catholic archbishop of Port-au-Prince was dead.

"The cathedral, the archbishop's

"There are a lot of schools that have a lot of dead people in them."

Youri Latortue | Senator

office, all the big churches, the seminaries have been reduced to rubble," Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the apostolic envoy to Haiti, told the Vatican news agency FIDES.

The parking lot of the Hotel Villa Creole was a triage center. People sat with injuries and growing infections by the side of rubble-strewn roads, hoping that doctors and aid would come.

The international Red Cross said a third of Haiti's 9 million people may need emergency aid and that it would take a day or two for a clear picture of the damage to emerge.

At first light Wednesday, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter evacuated four critically injured U.S. Embassy staff to the hospital on the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the military has been detaining suspected terrorists for the last seven years.

President Barack Obama promised an all-out rescue and humanitarian effort, adding that the U.S. commitment to its hemispheric neighbor will be unwavering.

"We have to be there for them in their hour of need," Obama said.

Other nations — from Iceland to Venezuela — said they would start sending in aid workers and rescue teams. Cuba said its existing field hospitals in Haiti had already treated hundreds of victims.

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NATION BRIEFS

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Lawyers: No crime at fatal Ariz. sweat lodge

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The deaths of three people following a sweat lodge ceremony in northern Arizona were a tragic accident — not the result of criminal negligence, said attorneys for the self-help guru who led the ceremony.

Lawyers for James Arthur Ray outlined their defense in letters to prosecutors that were released yesterday. The attorneys said holding a sweat lodge ceremony is a centuries-old tradition that is not inherently criminal or unsafe, and that Ray had no reason to believe anyone would be seriously injured or die.

"Mr. Ray did not force anyone to participate, prevent anyone from leaving or brainwash participants before the sweat lodge event," stated a Dec. 1 letter signed by Ray attorney Luis Li.

— Felicia Fonseca (AP)

Two NJ church groups who traveled in Haiti reportedly OK

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — One of two New Jersey church groups traveling in Haiti has survived the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck the Caribbean nation, and a member of the second said that group may be OK as well.

The stepdaughter of the pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Hackettstown said Frank Fowler called a church member in New Jersey yesterday to say the group survived the disaster.

The 15-member group, which includes two high school students, traveled to Haiti on a humanitarian mission to provide birth kits, diapers and other supplies, Fowler's wife, Karen, said yesterday.

Later, a member of a Mercer County church group sent a text message to her sister-in-law to say she was OK. She wasn't able to call or immediately provide more details. Up to 20 people are in that group.

Passenger charged in Denver with disrupting crew

DENVER (AP) — An AirTran Airways passenger accused of becoming unruly when he was refused more alcohol has been charged with interfering with a flight crew.

Authorities said Muhammad Abu Tahir of Glen Allen, Va., became disruptive on a flight Jan. 8 from Atlanta to San Francisco. Two military jets were sent to tail the plane, whose captain decided to divert to Colorado Springs.

Muhammad Abu Tahir had an interpreter at his side yesterday in federal court. Preliminary and bond hearings are planned for tomorrow.

The plane was one of two commercial flights diverted that day, coming amid heightened concern over airline security after a Nigerian man allegedly tried to blow up a Detroit-bound Northwest Airlines plane Christmas Day.

State trooper shot and killed northwestern Pa.

CRANBERRY, Pa. — A state trooper shot in northwestern Pennsylvania has died, and a search is on for the gunman.

Dozens of state police cruisers are in a heavily wooded area where the shooting happened yesterday. Authorities confirmed the trooper had died, but didn't immediately release the trooper's name or provide details of what happened.

The shooting happened in a rural area near Oil City, about 80 miles north of Pittsburgh. Police have closed down roads in the area and locked down schools.

— Joe Mandak (AP)

Dog helps save elderly, unconscious man in Minn.

PINE CITY, Minn. (AP) — Police credit a 15-year-old German Shorthaired dog with saving the life of an elderly, unconscious man in Pine City. Brett Grinde said he took Effie out for their usual walk on Monday evening, but within a couple minutes she started pulling on the leash, wanting to go in a different direction.

Effie then took off running, leading Grinde to a neighbor's house where a 94-year-old man was on face down on the driveway. The dog started licking the man's face. Grinde called 911, then started CPR.

KARE-TV reported the elderly man, William Lepsch, regained consciousness and is in serious condition at North Memorial Medical Center.

SC House rebukes gov, Senate sidelines censure

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina state representatives formally reprimanded a governor for the first time yesterday, admonishing Gov. Mark Sanford for secret trips to see his Argentine mistress and improper use of state aircraft.

The lawmakers voted 102-11 to censure Sanford for bringing "ridicule, dishonor, disgrace and shame" to himself and the state. The rebuke says the two-term Republican was derelict in his duty and abused his power.

The issue came up a few hours later in the Senate, but was sidelined when a legislator said the resolution needed to be reviewed in a committee. Some Senate leaders have said their body may never vote on censure.

— Jim Davenport (AP)

Judge orders \$500k for each of preacher's five victims

Resitution given to 'wives' of preacher after being sexually assaulted as minors

By Jill Zeman Bleed
The Associated Press

TEXARKANA, Ark. — Five young women who testified last year that evangelist Tony Alamo took them as "wives" and sexually assaulted them when they were minors are entitled to \$500,000 each from his multi-million-dollar ministry, a federal judge ruled yesterday.

U.S. District Judge Harry F. Barnes ordered restitution after a government witness said the women suffered physical and mental pain at Alamo's hands. Prosecutors said they were confident Alamo could afford the \$2.5 million judgment even though

most of his assets are held in his followers' names.

"The challenge is going to be uncovering them and finding what names they're placed under," Assistant U.S. Attorney Kyra Jenner said.

Alamo lawyer Don Ervin said he was disappointed after arguing the five were not entitled to any restitution. He said claims of longterm pain and suffering were speculative and based on medical or health issues that had not yet emerged.

Ervin also argued each woman should have been evaluated separately and received compensation based on their own history.

The government had sought

\$2.7 million per woman, or a total of \$13.5 million.

Alamo, 75, was sentenced last year to 175 years for taking underage girls across state lines for sex. He will not have to pay the restitution until his appeals are exhausted.

Dr. Sharon Cooper, a developmental and forensic pediatrician, told Barnes the women continue to suffer chronic back pain because they were forced to give Alamo massages every night while they were kept at his compound near Fouke in southwest Arkansas. Each woman, now aged 17-33, also suffers persistent and painful menstrual cramps associated with sexual abuse, Cooper said.

Former minister in Texas on trial for wife's death

By Angela K. Brown
Associated Press

WACO, Texas — A teacher was upbeat and looking forward to the future in the days before her death, not despondent as her minister husband has claimed, witnesses testified yesterday at his murder trial.

Matt Baker, 38, is accused of drugging and suffocating his wife Kari, whose 2006 death was initially ruled a suicide. If convicted, he could face life in prison. Baker has denied that he killed her, saying she was despondent over the cancer death of one of their daughters.

Kari Baker was making plans to help improve her youngest child's reading skills before she started first grade, said Marla James, a teacher. Kari Baker also said she had joined a gym and recently lost 15 pounds,

said her longtime hairdresser, Bacy Barrera.

But a few hours before her death, Kari and Matt Baker exhibited odd behavior at their oldest child's swimming practice, said Kimberly Jackson, whose child was on the swim team. Kari seemed groggy and had problems holding her head up, and at one point her husband had to help her up from the bleachers, Jackson testified.

Jackson also said that when she called Matt Baker the next day after learning of Kari's death, she told him that she would have tried to intervene if she had known her friend was severely depressed.

"He said he didn't have any indication that she was depressed either," Jackson testified.

During opening statements, prosecutor Susan Shafer said there have been numerous discrepancies in Baker's story during media interviews, including when

"He said that he didn't have an indication that she was severely depressed."

Kimberly Jackson | Parent

he saw the typed suicide note and whether he had thought his wife was suicidal. Shafer said a key witness would be his then-girlfriend, although he repeatedly has denied that he was having an affair at the time of his wife's death.

"She's going to tell you how Matt Baker killed Kari," Shafer told jurors.

Defense attorney Guy James Gray, however, said evidence will show that authorities suspected his client from the beginning and never sought evidence that would show Kari authored the suicide note.

Maine man convicted of manslaughter in fatal sex dungeon shooting

By David Sharp
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A Maine man charged in the shooting death of a friend during a night of sex play in a "dungeon" has been convicted of manslaughter.

Defense lawyer Tom Hallett told jurors Wednesday that three men had been using guns as part of their sexual play and that the victim might have put a bullet in a revolver to increase the thrill.

Defendant Bruce Lavalley-Davidson told police the shooting was an accident.

Assistant Attorney General Lisa Marchese (mahr-KAY-zee) says it was still Lavalley-Davidson's responsibility to make sure the gun wasn't loaded before handling it.

Wilson died of a single gunshot to the head.

A gun collector who introduced several weapons into sexual play with two other men contends the weapons were intended to fulfill a sexual fantasy. Instead, a lethal combination of drugs, extreme sex and Russian roulette has put him on trial for manslaughter.

Both the defense and prosecutors say there was no intention to kill. But prosecutors say defendant Bruce Lavalley-Davidson, a farmer from Skowhegan, was responsible for ensuring his gun wasn't loaded when it was being handled.

The trial in Portland, the state's largest city, has shed light on a dungeon in a home in neighboring South Portland filled with sexual toys that three men used as a drug-fueled escape from reality. But Assistant Attorney General Lisa Marchese says the focus should be on the handling of the gun — not the sexual acts in the victim's basement.

"You never point a loaded gun at someone's head," Marchese said after resting her case Tuesday, emphasizing it's the responsibility of the person holding the revolver to ensure the chamber is empty. "You don't point a gun and pull the trigger unless you're 100 percent sure."

The bespectacled Lavalley-Davidson, with closely cropped gray hair and a goatee and dressed in a sport coat and khakis, gave the appearance of a college professor as he sat

"You don't point a gun and pull the trigger unless you are 100 percent sure."

Lisa Marchese | Assistant Attorney

quietly in court, where closing arguments were anticipated Wednesday. Before becoming an organic farmer, he was a technology administrator for Maine Central Institute, a prep school.

The Dartmouth College graduate was in a committed relationship when he testified in favor of keeping Maine's now-overturned gay marriage law at a public hearing, four days after the discovery of the body of 50-year-old Fred Wilson and a couple of weeks before he was indicted.

The fatal shooting happened after the three men had been smoking pot, drinking beer, huffing aerosol inhalants and having sex over a 12-hour period in the basement of Wilson's Colonial home in a middle-class neighborhood two blocks from the ocean.

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JUST JAZZIN'

University jazz students were given the chance yesterday to play along with visiting pianist Phil DeGreg. A professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, DeGreg spent time answering questions and talking with students in-between music sessions. He also played alongside University Assistant Professor of Jazz David Bixler in Bryan Recital Hall last night.

Photos by Alaina Buzas | Photo Editor

TOP RIGHT: Bassist Junior Greg Wolfram glances at jazz pianist Phil DeGreg for cues while playing yesterday in 2121 Moore Musical Arts Center. **RIGHT:** Graduate student George Michael takes advantage of DeGreg's visit to play some notes on his alto saxophone. **BELOW RIGHT:** University alum Kyle Turner listens as DeGreg talks about the community of jazz music. "This is all very sociable," De Greg said. "That's what this music is all about." Turner is also a pianist. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** DeGreg glides his hands across the black and whites. While encouraging students to play along with him, he talked about the importance of listening. "The most important part about music is listening. Listening and responding to what you hear." **BOTTOM LEFT:** In between pieces, DeGreg talks to students about the importance of achieving clarity through practice, instead of practicing to impress other students or friends. "When you're having a conversation you're not thinking 'I bet I sound really good right now' and you shouldn't play that way either." **BELOW:** Professor of Percussion Roger Schupps finishes up a piece on drums. Schupps played along with DeGreg for a number of songs yesterday.



"The most important part about music is listening. Listening and responding to what you hear."

Phil DeGreg | Jazz Pianist

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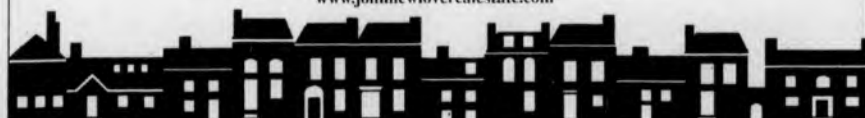
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SIDELINES

BASKETBALL
Photo sideshow of Buffalo game

Go to www.bgnewssports.com to see a photo sideshow of BG's 78-60 win over Buffalo Wednesday night.

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OUR CALL

Today in Sports History

1987—Catfish Hunter and Billy Williams are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

1974—The World Football League is founded.

1964—East beats West 111-107 in the 14th NBA All-Star Game.

1943—Alex Smart is the first NHL player to score a hat trick in his first game.

The List

Buffalo held its own in the first half of last night's women's basketball game against BG, but a strong second half from the Falcons created some separation as they improved to 3-0 in the MAC. Here's a look at the top five performances.

1. Brown: The Bulls' Kourtney Brown posted a double-double, scoring a game-high 20 points to go along with her 13 rebounds.

2. Pontius: Tracy Pontius led the Falcons with 16 points, including 4-for-4 from the charity stripe.

3. Uhl: Jen Uhl shot 6-of-8 from the floor and was second in scoring for BG with 13.

4. Breske: Tara Breske posted 12 points and grabbed eight rebounds in 27 minutes.

5. Prochaska: Despite a 3-for-11 shooting night, Lauren Prochaska still managed 12 points.

Falcon men open home MAC schedule with Buffalo

By Paul Barney
Assistant Sports Editor

Erik Marschall doesn't take any day for granted.

Marschall, a forward on the BG men's basketball team, has battled his way back from foot and knee injuries that cost him 11 games his sophomore season and his entire junior year — forcing Marschall to redshirt.

Marschall returned from injury in 2008-09 and played in all the Falcons' 33 games, and after playing in all 13 games so far this season (starting the last three), the senior is ready to do whatever it takes to help the team win — with the possibility of injuries still on his mind.

"Whenever I go out to practice I realize that, 'Hey, this could be my last practice,'" Marschall said. "You have to take every day on the court as a gift."

The injuries sustained to Marschall's foot and knee lim-

"[Buffalo] is going to be gunning for us. We had a target on our back winning the MAC regular season last year. They know what they need to do and we know what we need to do. It's going to be a good game."

Erik Marschall | BG Center

ited his mobility while he still ate like an athlete, causing him to gain excess weight.

After spending a lot of time with men's basketball trainer Chad Young, Marschall has dropped nearly 25 pounds.

"When I first got the job here [in 2007], I saw a guy who had knee surgery and foot surgery and weighed close to 250 pounds," coach Louis Orr said.

"Now he's a guy who's physically healthy, more mobile and leaner and meaner than he was when

I first got here, and that's a credit to Erik."

Spending time in the gym and weight room this offseason has Marschall physically prepared for the "grind" of the season, which resumes tonight against Buffalo.

The Falcons (7-6, 0-1 Mid-American Conference) open their home conference schedule against the Bulls (8-4, 1-0 MAC) with tip-off at 7 p.m.

See **HOOPS** | Page 10



CHRISTINA MCGINNIS | THE BG NEWS

BACK IN THE GAME: Senior Erik Marschall has battled back from foot and knee surgeries.

Taking the Bull by its horns



RYAN PIROG | THE BG NEWS

STEPPING UP: Allison Papenfuss had 8 points off of the bench for the Falcons.

Falcons take down Bulls after subpar first half

By Andrew Harner
Senior Reporter

A 30 second stretch in which BG scored seven points and strong play inside the paint lifted the Falcons to a 78-60 win against Buffalo last night.

Having trailed most of the game's first 17 minutes, senior center Tara Breske tied the game at 27 with 2:41 left in the first half.

But it was what happened after that which really mattered for the Falcons, as junior guard Tracy Pontius helped force three straight Buffalo turnovers, which resulted in seven BG points and gave the team momentum right before halftime.

"That swing was huge. Basketball is a game of runs," Breske said. "Once you get that momentum up, that helps you so much confidence-wise."

And the Falcons (13-4, 3-0 Mid-American Conference) didn't look back, outscoring the Bulls (4-12, 0-3 MAC) 43-32 in the second half while cruising to a victory.

Twenty-four of those second-half points were scored in the paint. BG is generally a team that takes outside shots (they had attempted 341 3-pointers going into the game), but Buffalo defended that well, forcing the Falcons to switch their game plan.

"Our team did a great job executing against the switching man-to-man defense tonight," Miller said. "They guarded the arc really well, and we had to take our opportunities inside and win some of the matchup advantages we had because of the way they defended us."



Kourtney Brown

Buffalo's forward grabbed 13 rebounds, 10 coming on offense.



Tracy Pontius

The junior guard posted a team-high 16 points in BG's win.

In total, BG scored 46 points in the paint, and Miller said he couldn't remember the last time one of his teams scored that many points in the paint.

The best the team had done this season was 34 against Akron and St. Francis (Pa.).

But with all that, the Falcons didn't have the best individual performer from the game, as Buffalo's junior forward Kourtney Brown recorded a double-double with 20 points and 13 rebounds.

"A lot of her points came off offensive rebounds," Breske said. "It was offensive rebounds that killed us."

The Bulls had 10 offensive rebounds in the first half and 17 in the game, which resulted in 12 second chance points.

Miller said coming into the game

See **WIN** | Page 10

Papenfuss, BG bench key to win over Buffalo

By Andrew Harner
Senior Reporter

Falcon coach Curt Miller has a very deep basketball team.

He used that depth last night to help lift his team to a 78-60 win against Buffalo, as 15 players saw at least two minutes of action and 12 players scored at least two points.

Freshman Allison Papenfuss was the top bench performer, scoring six points and pulling down eight rebounds in the win. And she did that while helping defend two of the best post players in the Mid-American Conference — Kourtney Brown and Jessica Fortman, who combined for 33 points and 19 rebounds.

"Maggie [Hennegan], the first post off the bench, got two quick fouls in one minute so now you go to Allison Papenfuss, which is a scary matchup for her guarding the Fortmans — experienced productive post players in our league," said coach Curt Miller.

But it was more than just Papenfuss' effort as the Falcon bench scored 23 points and grabbed 22 rebounds, while committing just five of the team's 13 turnovers.

Another freshman — Jessie Tamerlano — also impressed, netting 3-of-4 shots and grabbing four rebounds in nine minutes of action.

Senior center Tara Breske said having a steady bench allows the starters to focus on making aggressive plays

"It gives us more confidence out on the court knowing that if we mess up, someone can go in."

Tara Breske | BG center

because they know they can take a foul from time to time.

"It gives us more confidence out on the court knowing that if we mess up, someone can go in," Breske said.

Doubling up

Miller aspires for four of his players to score in double figures each game, and while that had only happened in three of the first 16 games, it did happen last night.

Tracy Pontius led the way with 16 points, but Jen Uhl (13), Lauren Prochaska (12) and Breske (12) made for a balanced score sheet at the end of the night.

"We talk about trying to get four people in double figures each game. Tonight we did that," Miller said. "We can ride Lauren's coattails when times get tough, and Lauren didn't have a great game tonight."

"It's double-edge. I want

See **NOTES** | Page 10

Former Brown's coach Crennel joins Weiss in Kansas City

By Doug Tucker
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Just call them the Kansas City Patriots.

When they take the field next year, the Chiefs will have the same defensive coordinator, offensive coordinator and top front office executive who helped lead New England to three Super Bowl titles between 2002-05.

Throw in quarterback Matt Cassel, who backed up Tom Brady with the Patriots, and the New England-Kansas City connection becomes even stronger as Scott Pioli attempts to reverse the fortunes of the long-suffering Chiefs.

Romeo Crennel, the defensive coordinator on the Patriots' Super Bowl teams, agreed yesterday to join the Chiefs in the same capacity, his agent said. Crennel, who was out of football this past season following hip surgery, will be reunited with Charlie Weiss, who was New England's offensive coordinator

and agreed last week to take that job with the Chiefs.

They'll be working for Pioli, who one year ago resigned as Patriots personnel director to become general manager of the Chiefs. One of Pioli's first acts was to trade for Cassel and make him the foundation quarterback for his long-term rebuilding project in Kansas City.

Crennel's agent, Joe Linta, said Crennel would begin working for the Chiefs in a "couple of weeks" after attending to some family business and coaching in the East-West all-star game. The Chiefs declined comment.

The New York Giants had also expressed interest in Crennel, and talked with him by phone on Monday. But he told them the Chiefs, who run a 3-4 defense similar to what he coached in New England, would probably be his first choice.

Crennel and Weiss will be joining a franchise that has won only 10 games in three years and went



Romeo Crennel
Was hired as the Chiefs defensive coordinator

4-12 last year in Todd Haley's rocky rookie season as a head coach. As defensive coordinator, Crennel will replace Clancy Pendergast, whose status on the staff has not yet been redefined.

Besides their successful experience with the Patriots, the two new coordinators also have post-New England failure in common. Weiss left the Patriots to become head coach at his beloved Notre Dame and did get off to a good start. He was fired Nov. 30 with a five-year record of 35-27.

Crennel, 62, left New England to become head coach at Cleveland. And five years later, he was fired with a 24-40 record, including 4-12 in 2008.

Both also face a big challenge to help Haley and Pioli get the

Chiefs back into contention. Kansas City showed some life near the end of the season, but has not won a postseason game since the 1993 season and is still only 6-35 in its last 41 games.

The Chiefs' defense had some of the worst games of any in the NFL this past season, twice sending opposing players into the record book with franchise-best performances.

Miles Austin, in an overtime victory over the Chiefs, set the Cowboys single-game record with 250 yards receiving. Then later in the season in what many Chiefs fans consider the low point of the entire year, Cleveland backup Jerome Harrison rushed for an astonishing 286 yards, wiping out Jim Brown's team record with the third-highest single-game total in NFL history.

The Chiefs pick fifth in the April draft. And they would seem to have a favorable schedule in 2010 with only three games against 2009 playoff teams.

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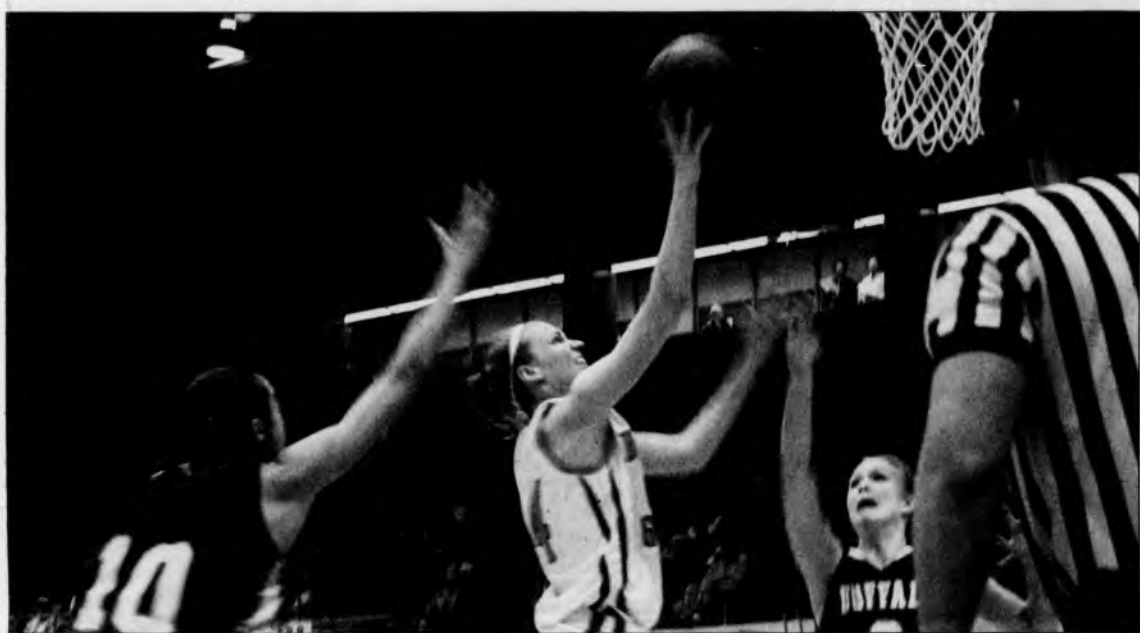
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BRAD WOZNICKI | THE BG NEWS

IT'S GOOD: Jen Uhl goes up for 2 of her 14 points in BG's win over Buffalo.

NOTES

From Page 9

Lauren to play well every night, but it's nice to see that we can step up and put multiple people in double figures."

Climbing the ladder

Pontius moved to ninth place on the University's all-time list for 3-pointers made in a career, as she moved her total to 124 with two made 3-balls last night.

She moved past the recently graduated Lindsey Goldsberry (2005-09) and needs 21 more to move to eighth place, which is currently held by Stefanie Wenzel (2000-04) with 143.

rently held by Stefanie Wenzel (2000-04) with 143.

Inching closer

Prochaska is closer to moving up the University's all-time list for points scored in a career.

With her 12 points last night, Prochaska now has 1,392 points and trails 11th place Angie Bonner (1987-90) by 20 points.

Averaging 17.7 points per game, Prochaska could move past Bonner Saturday at Kent State.

Connection

BG assistant coach Kevin Eckert was an assistant at Buffalo for four seasons before joining the Falcons eight seasons ago.

WIN

From Page 9

that Brown and the team's other junior forward — Jessica Fortman — were his two biggest concerns since they have scored more than 40 percent of UB's points this season.

He used a rotation of players to guard them, but they still combined for 33 points and 19 rebounds, which was considered a success at game's end.

"We knew they were the go-to players; we were going to try to contain them and knew we couldn't totally shut them down," Miller said. "We didn't want anyone else to have a big

night, and I thought we accomplished that goal."

Freshman guard Chrissy Cooper and sophomore guard Brittany Hedderson were the Bulls' next leading scorers with eight points each, and no other Buffalo player had more than four rebounds.

The win is BG's 11th straight against the Bulls, not having lost a game since Feb. 2, 2003. In addition, it gives the team at least a 3-0 start to MAC play for the fifth straight season.

The Falcons will look to continue that conference winning streak Saturday when they travel to Kent State for a 2 p.m. game against the Flashes.



Consuming **CHOCOLATE** was once considered a **SIN** during the 16th and 17th century.



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

PREPARING FOR BATTLE: BG coach Louis Orr is expecting a tough game with Buffalo tonight.

HOOPS

From Page 9

Both teams finished with identical 11-5 records in the MAC last season, and because BG won the season series 2-0, they were the No. 1 seed in the MAC Tournament and earned a bid to the NIT.

"[Buffalo] is going to be gunning for us," Marshall said. "We had a target on our back winning the MAC regular season last year. They know what they need to do and we know what we need to do. It's going to be a good game."

The Falcons will be looking to even their conference record as well as add to a three-game winning streak against the Bulls in Anderson Arena.

BG is 14-5 all-time against Buffalo with a .737 winning percentage, the team's best against any other MAC school.

However, despite the Falcons' success in years past against the Bulls, the team knows they can't have another conference game play out the same way it did Saturday in the MAC opener.

BG shot just 28 percent in its loss to Akron. After missing shots near the basket, they never fully developed an inside presence.

"When you get opportunities around the basket you have to convert them," Orr said. "You have to reward yourself with some easy baskets. You can't reward teams with easy points and miss out on easy points yourself."

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Senator: US should consider drone attacks in Yemen

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said lawmakers should consider whether U.S.-led air strikes and other clandestine operations are necessary in Yemen to defeat an emboldened al-Qaida force there.

The remark yesterday by Democratic Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan is a rare admission by a senior U.S. official that direct U.S. military action in Yemen is possible, if it hasn't happened already.

Al-Qaida forces in Yemen have emerged in recent months as a major threat to U.S. security, with ties to the recent airline bombing plot and Fort Hood shooting.

But U.S. officials said there are no plans to send ground troops there, and Yemen has made clear it wouldn't want them.

US halts deportations of to Haiti in wake of quake

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security officials said the U.S. will halt for now the deportation of Haitians who are living in the United States illegally.

A spokesman said all removals to Haiti are halted as of yesterday because of the devastating earthquake. Those who were to be deported to Haiti will remain in U.S. detention centers.

Thousands of people are feared dead in the magnitude-7.0 earthquake that hit Haiti Tuesday.

Recovery spreads but doesn't spur hiring

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economic recovery is spreading to more parts of the country but has yet to spur companies to ramp up hiring.

A new Federal Reserve survey, released yesterday, underscores the duality of the economic turnaround: even as the economy grows and the recovery extends its reach geographically, more than 15 million people remain unemployed.

The Fed observed that although "economic activity remains at a low level, conditions have improved modestly further." However, the Fed also noted that "labor market conditions remained soft" in most of the Fed's 12 regions as the new year started.

Justice Dept. settles Kindle-on-campus cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three universities testing Amazon's Kindle in the classroom have agreed to shelve the electronic book readers until they are fully functional for blind students, under a deal struck yesterday with the Justice Department.

The legal settlements were made with Pace University in New York, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and Reed College in Portland, Ore.

Two organizations representing the blind had sued after universities announced a pilot program to use the Kindle in classrooms.

Obama concedes he hasn't brought country together

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said he has not succeeded in bringing the country together, acknowledging an atmosphere of divisiveness that has washed away the lofty national feeling surrounding his inauguration a year ago.

"That's what's been lost this year ... that whole sense of changing how Washington works," Obama said in an interview with People magazine.

The president said his second-year agenda will be refocused on uniting the country around common values, "whether we're Democrats or Republicans."

Michelle Obama: No need for first-year do-overs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michelle Obama reflected on her first year in the White House yesterday and calmly claimed no need for any do-overs. Even the things that didn't go quite right were part of the learning curve, the first lady said, and that includes the November state dinner penetrated by three party-crashers.

"The evening was so wonderful and it was so well-orchestrated that for me, the other stuff that everybody is talking about is a footnote to what the state dinner actually was," she said. "So I wouldn't do that over."

Overall, Mrs. Obama said, "the things that have worked and the things that haven't worked are all a part of making this experience what it is and getting us all ready for this coming year."

Town in Afghanistan may be first big battle in bigger insurgent war

By Anne Gearan
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is openly telegraphing a plan to clear out an insurgent haven in what may be the first major battle since President Barack Obama's expansion of the Afghanistan war, hoping that all but the most hardcore Taliban will sit out the fight.

U.S. military leaders have spoken bluntly in recent weeks about a looming assault on Marjah, a town in the southwest Afghan province of Helmand described as Taliban-owned and operated.

"It's been increasingly clear for weeks now about the need to clear out Marjah, so that's going to happen," Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen told reporters traveling with him in Afghanistan in December. "It's going to happen ... at a time and place of our choosing, but it's going to happen."

The battle would be a key-stone in an offensive planned for early this year against a resurgent Taliban-led insurgency. The Obama administration approved the offensive, and an infusion of 30,000 additional U.S. forces, as a way to put the brakes on the Taliban's expansion across southern Afghanistan.

U.S. officials say there is only a narrow path to victory, but that a forceful stand in Helmand and Kandahar provinces will establish U.S. resolve to stick it out. Both sides are gearing for a fight.

The U.S. military does not normally comment on the timing or other details of future operations. But remarks from senior military leaders in Afghanistan and Washington suggest they see no point in hiding plans to confront what they said is the last trouble spot in a district where U.S. forces have already cleared several other towns of active Taliban presence.

Marjah, a small town in a farming district some 380 miles southwest of Kabul, is a strategic target because it is a key

supply hub for the opium poppy crop and shelters Taliban units thought to have fled the Marines elsewhere in Helmand.

Helmand is the world's largest producer of opium, the main ingredient in the production of heroin, and Afghanistan accounts for more than 90 percent of the world's opium supply. Some of the proceeds from this multibillion dollar trade go to fund the insurgency. Profits also line the pockets of corrupt government officials.

"We're going to go in big," Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commander of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, told reporters traveling with Mullen in Helmand. "I'm not looking for a fair fight."

"Marjah is next," Nicholson said, because if U.S. forces are going to protect Afghans from the Taliban — a key component of Gen. Stanley McChrystal's new Afghan war strategy — they need to ensure free passage throughout Afghanistan.

Tensions have intensified in southern Afghanistan as local protesters claiming that international troops destroyed copies of the Quran clashed with Afghan and foreign security forces in Helmand on Tuesday. The tumult left six people dead, Afghan officials said.

Also in the south, 13 insurgents were killed Tuesday by a missile fired from an unmanned drone. The pilotless drones have mostly been used for surveillance, but the airstrike commenced after coalition troops scanned insurgents preparing ammunition and mortar teams moving equipment in the Naw Zad area of Helmand, NATO said.

On Monday, another missile fired from a drone killed three insurgents farther south in the Nad Ali district of Helmand, according to NATO.

During a trip to the region late last year, Mullen chose to fly around the Marjah district rather than directly over it, a sign of how potent the insurgent threat has become there. The area's strategic importance near the provincial capital and a major

"It's been increasingly clear for weeks now about the need to clear out Marjah, so that's going to happen."

Mike Mullen | Chairman

roadway makes it a propaganda prize as well as valuable real estate.

Military officials said the battle would be designed to minimize Afghan civilian casualties, but the fight, whenever it comes, may involve house-to-house combat and other tactics that put civilians at risk. It is unclear how many true civilians remain in the town itself, although many live in the surrounding 40 miles or so of lush river- and canal-fed farmland.

Although the U.S. military clearly wants to eliminate the Taliban threat around Marjah, some of the big talk may be a deliberate attempt to mislead the insurgents about when and how the assault will come.

By openly discussing their plans for Marjah, military officials risk the possibility that the Taliban will act contrary to their plans and mount a stiff defense that could swell American casualties.

But defense officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the future military operation, said commanders are banking on the assumption that Taliban foot soldiers may choose to quietly slip back to their civilian lives rather than face vastly superior U.S. forces.

"We are going to put the enemy on the horns of a dilemma," Nicholson said. "He has to decide what to do."

Nicholson said it's impossible to hide the arrival of 10,000 Marines that began last month. Their mission is clear to everyone including the Taliban, the general said.

Bereaved kin push for military condolence letters

By Kimberly Hefling
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Army Pfc. Brian Matthew Williams, 20, took his own life the day before he was to return to Iraq. Because it was a suicide, the president didn't send a condolence letter to his family. Nobody has planted a tree in his honor or carved his name onto a memorial wall.

Advocates for bereaved military families say soldiers like Williams deserve better. They're asking President Barack Obama to send condolence letters to the next of kin of troops who die under a variety of circumstances not directly related to the war.

"Every military family pays a price when a loved one serves in the military," Bonnie Carroll, a military widow who founded the advocacy group Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, wrote in a letter sent to Obama

on Tuesday, as veterans and military officials met in Washington for a four-day suicide prevention conference.

"Their loved ones stand ready to go into harm's way to protect our country," Carroll wrote. "Their deaths are painful to their surviving family members, regardless of the circumstances or location of the death."

There is no standard policy on how deceased military veterans are honored. Policies vary on whose names go on military and community memorial walls, whose families receive a Gold Star lapel button from the Defense Department or who can get a Gold Star license plate.

Currently, the White House sends presidential condolences to the families of those who died either in combat or as a result of noncombat incidents in a war zone, such as a car crash or illness.

"Every military family pays a price when a loved one serves in the military."

Bonnie Carroll | group founder

However, presidential condolence letters are not sent to the families of those who commit suicide, either at home or at war. Families of those who die outside the war zones in other ways, such as in a training accident, generally don't receive them, either.

A review is under way to determine whether presidential letters should be sent for suicides. Advocates say extending that honor to all deceased troops, regardless of how they died, would go a long way toward comforting the families.

Obama wants record \$708 billion for wars next year

By Anne Flaherty and Anne Gearan
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will ask Congress for an additional \$33 billion to fight unpopular wars in Afghanistan and Iraq on top of a record \$708 billion for the Defense Department next year, The Associated Press has learned — a request that could be an especially hard sell to some of the administration's Democratic allies.

The extra \$33 billion in 2010 would mostly go toward the expansion of the war in Afghanistan. Obama ordered an extra 30,000 troops for that war as part of an overhaul of the war strategy late last year.

Military officials have suggested that the 2011 request would top \$700 billion for the first time, but the precise figure has not been made public.

The administration also plans to tell Congress next month that its central military objectives for the next four years will include winning the current wars while

preventing new ones and that its core missions will include both counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations.

The administration's Quadrennial Defense Review, the main articulation of U.S. military doctrine, is due to Congress on Feb. 1. Top military commanders were briefed on the document at the Pentagon on Monday and Tuesday. They also received a preview of the administration's budget plans through 2015.

The four-year review outlines six key mission areas and spells out capabilities and goals the Pentagon wants to develop. The pilotless drones used for surveillance and attack missions in Afghanistan and Pakistan are a priority, with the goals of speeding up the purchase of new Reaper drones and expanding Predator and Reaper drone flights through 2013.

U.S. officials outlined the coming requests on condition of anonymity because the budget request will not be sent to Congress until later this month.

"The president's going to have to make his case."

Nancy Pelosi | House Speaker

Obama's request for more war spending is likely to receive support on Capitol Hill, where Republicans will join moderate Democrats to pass the bill.

But the budget debate is also likely to expose a widening rift between Obama's administration and Democratic leaders, who have watched public opinion turn against the military campaign.

"The president's going to have to make his case," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told reporters last month at her year-end briefing.

The 2010 budget contains about \$128 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That figure would rise to \$159 billion next year under the proposals prepared for Congress.

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Edwards misses practice for court in Cleveland

By Dennis Waszak
The Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — New York Jets wide receiver Braylon Edwards returned to practice yesterday after missing a day to make a court appearance in Cleveland.

Edwards was placed on probation after pleading no contest to misdemeanor aggravated disorderly conduct Tuesday. He said he was upset about having to miss practice, especially with the Jets preparing for their playoff game at San Diego on Sunday.

"Finally that situation's behind me, so I'm able to forget about it," he said. "I'm able to fully step out of Cleveland and do everything I can as a Jet. I'm happy I can relax and just play football."

Edwards initially pleaded not guilty in November to misdemeanor assault after he was accused of punching a friend of NBA star LeBron James on Oct. 5 outside a downtown nightclub. The former Browns receiver was traded to the Jets two days later.

Judge Michelle Earley gave Edwards a suspended 180-day jail sentence and fined him \$1,000. His probation will be inactive, which means he won't have to report to a probation officer. As a result, Edwards said he'll be worry free the rest of the season.

"It clears me," Edwards said. "It would be a distraction if there was a case and now it's going to have a trial and I'd have to think about the trial. The fact of the matter [is] that it's over, it's over. It's just that. Now I can focus 100 percent on football and giving all I can to the Jets."

The NFL will review the matter under its personal conduct policy, but Edwards was optimistic he wouldn't face disciplinary action from commissioner Roger Goodell. He has no previous legal or disciplinary issues.

"At the end of the day, without going too in depth, I didn't even get a misdemeanor," Edwards said. "Roger Goodell has to make a decision and if he does, I support whatever he does. Right now, he hasn't said anything, so

"Finally that situation's behind me, so I'm able to forget about it. I'm able to fully step out of Cleveland and do everything I can as a Jet. I'm happy I can relax and just play football."

Braylon Edwards, Jet's wide receiver

I'm playing football."

Edwards thought there was a chance he wouldn't have to make the court appearance himself, but got word late Monday night he, in fact, needed to be in Cleveland. He took a 6 a.m. flight Tuesday to make the appearance, flew back later that afternoon and was able to get up to speed on the game plan.

Since being traded to the Jets, Edwards has 35 catches for 541 yards and four touchdowns. He had two catches for 15 yards in the 24-14 win at Cincinnati, but also had a long pass go through his hands in the end zone.

"It's just not the player I am," he said. "It wouldn't bother me if I was an average player and it was a drop and it was like, 'Oh, well, he might catch the next one, he might not.' I know that's not how I practice. It's not the kind of guy I am and that bothers me."

Edwards has developed a reputation for making difficult and sometimes spectacular catches, but dropping easy ones. He said the inconsistencies are a product of playing with so many quarterbacks during the last few seasons and overthinking.

"I'm comfortable with where my game's at right now," said Edwards, who added he doesn't need to prove anything to anyone. "I basically just need to go out there and play and stop thinking so much, especially with this one situation behind me."

Coach Rex Ryan half-kiddingly said he would tell Edwards to start catching balls with one hand during games.

"I'm going to stick to two," Edwards said with a smile. "I think that would be smart, it would be wise."

Edwards is a potential free agent after this season, and could be playing for a big deal to

remain in New York.

"I don't see myself wanting to go anywhere else," he said. "I'd like to be a Jet for the rest of my years."

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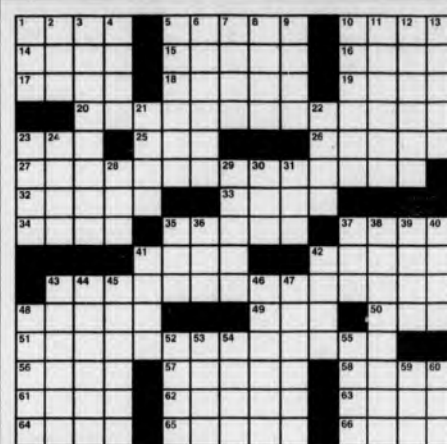
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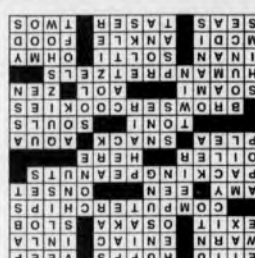


ACROSS

- 1 Caesar's reproach
- 5 Plays a trump card, in bridge
- 10 #2
- 14 Caution
- 15 1946 high-tech unveiling at the Univ. of Pennsylvania
- 16 On Hollywood Blvd., say
- 17 Way out
- 18 Mizuno Corporation headquarters
- 19 Sty resident?
- 20 Microprocessors
- 23 Poet Lowell
- 25 Tennyson's twilight
- 26 Beginning
- 27 Shipping things used as a filler
- 32 Persian Gulf ship
- 33 Roll call response
- 34 Court response
- 35 With 63-Across, this puzzle's theme
- 37 Water color

- 41 Grammy winner Braxton
- 42 Subjects for searching or saving
- 43 Bits of user information created by Web sites
- 48 "Me, too!"
- 49 Buddy List co.
- 50 Eastern discipline
- 51 Contortionists
- 56 "Back ... hour": store sign
- 57 Budapest-born conductor
- 58 "Good heavens!"
- 61 15th century date
- 62 Place for a bracelet
- 63 See 35-Across
- 64 Wet expanses
- 65 Shocking weapon
- 66 Rare bills

ANSWERS



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